

# Middlebury Crew

Volume 1: Spring 2009



*"The Greek in me wanted to know what it felt like to pull an oar. The intellectual wondered about how to get eight individuals to move to the same beat. The athlete wanted to check what has been described as the ultimate workout. The romantic craved seeing if the quirkiness of the sport--there is after all, little practical value to oarsmanship in the postindustrial age--stirred his blood." Barry Strauss*



Dear Friends of Middlebury Crew,

As we wrap up another year on Lake Dunmore, the team wanted to share some of the stories from the spring season: the race results, the moments of challenge and challenges overcome. With this newsletter, we hope to bring you all a bit closer to those early sunrises on Lake Dunmore, to the sounds of the oars as they take the water, and the glory of the last 500 meters.

Though we face some financial challenges, Middlebury Crew has never been stronger, whether measured by competitive results, participation numbers, or team spirit. The varsity boats brought home tremendous victories this year, and a strong and promising group of novices will return this fall to swell the ranks of the varsity program. As head coach, I am honored and humbled by the dedication and enthusiasm of the athletes. Together we push each other to give nothing less than our best each day, each practice, each stroke.

The joy of rowing comes from that pursuit of excellence, from giving everything you have, nothing less--and then discovering that that gift of effort is returned tenfold.

I hope you will join us in that effort.  
Best wishes,

Noel Wanner  
Head Coach  
Middlebury College Crew

If you have any questions or would like to show your support please contact Noel at [nwanner@middlebury.edu](mailto:nwanner@middlebury.edu) or by phone at 802-443-5223.



## Men's Varsity



Nick Zhao, Chris Rogers, Mathew Roja, Scott Robinson, Evan Doyle

The Middlebury Men's Varsity squad weathered the rigors of winter training to end up at the Clemson Sprints at the climax of their spring break training trip on Lake Lanier in sunny Georgia. Unfortunately, when it came time to race, the team was stranded on a private dock for hours in the rain thanks to stormy weather and skittish regatta officials. Despite the rocky beginning, as soon as the normal racing season started, the team quickly asserted itself. In the men's first boat, quick victories over perennial rivals Bowdoin, Amherst, Skidmore, UVM and others climaxed as the men took home the coveted

Rimmele Cup in the Big Three for the first time in the cup's history. The second varsity was shaken by the loss of stroke seat and moral bastion Dave Peduto to MRSA, which put him out for the season. Despite the loss, the boat recovered, hugely improving their times each race.

Championship racing proved to be both exciting and frustrating for the team--the first varsity (Scott Robinson '09, Evan Doyle '11.5, Chris Rogers '10.5, Nick Zhao '12) faced some stiff competition, but made it to the New England's grand final. The race was a neck and neck--Middlebury came out ahead in the first 1000, but was eventually overtaken, finishing fourth to Tufts University by .057 seconds. While a fourth-place finish was not what the team was aiming for, the intensity of the race and the close finish made it unforgettable. While the first four was out for revenge at ECACs, the regatta was canceled due to high winds, leaving the team disappointed, and hungry for revenge in the fall season.



Matt D'Auria, Margo Hennes, Mike Bayersdorfer, Chris Chan, David Peduto. Not Shown: Nick Palimeri

# Women's Varsity



The varsity women's team had a rocky start this season in Lowell, Massachusetts. After a grueling race in extremely windy conditions, they missed their rivals by a mere 0.4 seconds and stroke Dale Freundlich ('10) sustained a season-ending back injury. However, the women's four recovered and went on to race the Big Three at Amherst, placing second. The four, rowed by Laurel Wickberg ('09), Hannah Dzimitrowicz ('11), Meghan Blumstein ('11), and Kalie Mix ('11), avenged Lowell by defeating Bowdoin, but were not prepared for Amherst's strong sprint. After weeks of hard practice, the girl's four showed definite progress. After a comfortable win in Saratoga against William Smith, the girls again avenged their loss to Amherst in a tight race at Tufts, pulling ahead at the 1000 with a strong move and finishing 4 seconds ahead.



Left to Right:  
Meghan Blumstein, Kalie Mix, Laurel Wickberg,  
Elise Cohen, Hannah Dzimitrowicz.  
Not Shown: Dale Freundlich.

The four went into New England with a lot of energy, but unfortunately was seeded into the fastest heat. Although they fought hard, the girls placed third to Williams and Amherst, missing 2nd place by one second. Overall, the girls had the 4th fastest time, but just missed a place in the grand final. Fired up from the unfortunate situation, the girls finished first in the petite final, finishing 16 seconds ahead of the second place boat in their final and beating several times in the grand final. Then the four put in amazing week of effort to prepare for ECAC's in Camden, NJ on the Cooper the next weekend, but unfortunately the races were cancelled due to excessively high winds.

The women's varsity team has seen and overcome a great many challenges this season and is eager to see what can be accomplished this coming fall with the addition of many new, strong rowers from the women's novice.

# Novice Men



This spring, the Middlebury men's novice team set out to contradict their "novice" title by putting on display the fitness and technique they had honed over the course of the fall season and winter training. Comprised of 19 rowers and three coxswains, the team had a combination of established rowers from the fall season and new talent that came with the arrival of the Feb class of 2012.5. Their coach—recent graduate, Emily Dawson—drew upon her extensive rowing career to provide the crew with both technical instruction and leadership.

With their first race of the season (at UMass, Lowell) cancelled due to uncongenial weather, the novice men got their first shot at sprint season competition at the "Big 3" regatta between Middlebury, Amherst and Bowdoin. The team raced three fours, which reaped two second-place finishes, and an eight that competed well in the varsity heat. Results only improved from that point, with times



Mike Papadakis, Will Peterson, Miles Abadilla, Danny Waldman, Yoji High, Ben Rubin, Matthew Kingsbury, Brooks Coe, Walter Schiffer.



Alex Bedrosyan, Ben Brown, Jack Maher, Brian Watroba

Not Shown: Ethan Schmertzle, Lucas Alvarez, Joseph Putko, Bo-Bin Lee.

that dropped some fifteen seconds from race to race, a decisive victory for the eight at Tufts University, invitations for two boats to the New England Championships, and an invitation for the eight to ECACs. Most notably, however, the men's novice team garnered invaluable experience racing against some of New England's most successful crews: Trinity College, University of New Hampshire, Boston College, and the University of Vermont to name a few. This season's racing experience will prove invaluable to the team as they rise to the Varsity level next fall.

# N O V I C E

# W O M E N



The first year of college is supposed to be daunting, exciting and all that jazz they tell you during orientation, but nothing compares to your first year rowing. That first day when nine girls get in a boat with no idea what is going on, praying that they won't flip. The mixed up calls of the coxswain, the general disorganization of the rowers and Lake Dunmore as a backdrop make for quite an interesting first row. But the delicious thrill of rowing all eight for the first time eclipses all of the first week's calamity. This is what I and the rest of the novice women experienced way back in the early fall, and the season that came out of those first few days was truly special.

We finished respectively at Head of the Fish and after that first taste of racing, we were all hungry for more. We jumped into winter training and pushed through changing team numbers, injuries and the seemingly endless sets of chiefs. By the time the spring training trip rolled around, getting back in a boat was the only thing on our minds. And once we took our first strokes, we never looked back. The regatta down in Georgia proved memorable, with lighting at the start line and finding refuge at Cheryl Smith's house for a lengthy stay after we'd been evacuated off the lake.

Upon returning to Middlebury, it seemed nature was against us. Fierce wind and a tricky waterfall denied us the chance to race at Lowell, and the next two regattas were rainy and cold.

Finally we raced at Skidmore, where the affectionately named "Fire Four" won and the eight made history by beating Skidmore to place second. We built on this and went on to win twice at Tufts. Although disappointed by our performance at New England's, we gathered ourselves as a team and made a good showing at ECAC's, where we finally rowed our original line up in the eight, and proved to ourselves that this was not the end of our season, but the beginning of three more years of rowing with pride for Middlebury Crew.



Blakelee McBee, Catherine Hayes, Robin Sheasley, Devon Wright, Hallie Woods, Cailin Ross, Miles Abadilla, Amy Prescott, Grady Ross, Christina Azodi.  
Not Shown: Joan Low, Liya Gao & Cox: Teresa Wolverton